THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Primary census data of Tigers

2329. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 15 out of 17 tiger States have failed to file their primary census data with regard to tiger population;

(b) if so, which States have filed their census data, and which ones have not yet filed the same and the details of the tiger population, as posted, in each State; and

(c) whether any dependable and effective way has been found or evolved for arriving at accurate and correct population of tigers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):(a) and (b) Phase-I data pertaining to the All India tiger Estimation, using the refined methodology, has been received from 15 States, which include Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Mizoram, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal. Phase-I data has not been received so far from Rajasthan and Maharashtra. The Phase-I data provides information only on the presence and relative abundance of tigers. The population estimation of tiger requires further sampling followed by analysis (Phases II & III).

(c) The refined methodology of estimating tigers involves sampling and estimation of tiger density in different strata using a combination of methods, *i.e.* camera trap, digital photography of pugmarks to fix identities by a computer based recognition technique based on a mark-capture statistical framework, and correlation with other data, *e.g.* physical signs of tiger presence, prey-base, apart from DNA characterization of scats at places. The methodology has been approved by the Tiger Task Force constituted by National Board for Wildlife. The process involves three phases and its Phase-I alone has been completed and the latest estimation figures would be known after completion of Phase-lll of the process.